

Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 OMB-01 NIC-01 ARA-16 DRC-01

ACDA-19 PC-04 IO-14 /194 W
----- 048227

R 061210Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3155

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSULATE DOUALA

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 1401

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EK, CU

SUBJECT: CUBAN GOOD WILL DELEGATION TO YAOUNDE

REF: (A) YAOUNDE 0342; (B) YAOUNDE 1187

1. SUMMARY: CUBAN GOODWILL DELEGATION VISITED CAMEROON
APRIL 18-22 FOR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON CUBAN-CAMEROONIAN RELATIONS.
PRESS AND RADIO REPORTED VISIT IN LOW KEY FASHION WITHOUT COMMENTARY.
WHILE NO IMMEDIATELY CONCRETE RESULTS ANNOUNCED, VISIT
VIEWED AS STEP TOWARDS NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS.

2. ACCORDING FONOFF SECGEN OWONO WHO HEADED GURC DELEGATION
FOR CUBAN TALKS, INITIATIVE FOR VISIT CAME FROM CUBANS.
ALL FOUR MEMBERS OF CUBAN DELEGATION WERE REPRESENTED AS
COMING FROM CUBAN EMBASSY IN MALABO BUT OWONO DID NOT RULE
OUT POSSIBILITY THAT ONE OR MORE MAY HAVE COME FROM CUBA FOR
PURPOSE OF THIS MISSION.

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3. NO OFFICIAL PROPOSALS WERE MADE BY CUBAN DELEGATION, OWONO TOLD US, BUT OBJECTIVE OF DISCUSSION WAS NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN CUBA AND CAMEROON WHICH HAVE LEFT SOMETHING TO BE DESIRED (REFTEL A). CERTAIN PRACTICAL ASPECTS WERE RAISED, E.G. PERMISSION FOR CUBAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PERSONNEL IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA TO COME TO DOIALA FOR PROVISIONS WHICH IN ABSENCE OF RELATIONS GURC HAS NOT PERMITTED. GURC DELEGATION INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER ANY PARTICULAR PROBLEMS CUBANS MIGHT WANT TO TAKE UP. AT SAME TIME IT INDICATED THAT PROGRESS WOULD DEPEND ON ACCEPTABLE ATTITUDE BY CUBANS IN RESPECT THEIR INTENTIONS TOWARDS CAMEROON- CLEAR REFERENCE TO CUBAN ASSURANCES ON NON-INTERFERENCE IN CAMEROON AFFAIRS. FOR THE TIME BEING, OWONO STATED, THE BALL IS IN CUBAN COURT. GURC IS ALWAYS READY TO MOVE TOWARDS NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS

IF THE ATTITUDE OF THE OTHER SIDE IS SATISFACTORY.

4. OWONO ALSO REFERRED TO REPORTS THAT BREZHNEV, DURING VISIT TO CUBA IN FEBRUARY HAD ADVISED CASTRO TO DROP HIS "EXPORT OF REVOLUTION" CAMPAIGN. OWONO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN ANY COMMENTS DEPT MIGHT BE PREPARED TO MAKE ON THESE REPORTS AND IF CONFIRMED, EXTENT TO WHICH CUBA MAY BE RESPONDING TO ADVICE.

5. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION, PRESIDENCY ASSISTANT SECGEN SENGAT KUO COMMENTED TO ME THAT FOLLOWING LOW POINT IN RELATIONS REACHED A FEW YEARS AGO WHEN CUBA WAS GIVING SUPPORT TO CAMEROON DISSIDENTS, THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL APPROACHES TO GURC BY CUBANS THROUGH THIRD PARTIES AND THROUGH OTHER CONTACTS AT NONALIGNED AND INTERNATIONAL GATHERINGS. GURC THUS BELIEVED IT APPROPRIATE THAT CUBAN DELEGATION VISIT CAMEROON. ALTHOUGH NO DECISIONS TAKEN DURING VISIT, HE FELT THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS WOULD BE A NATURAL EVOLUTION. AT THE SAME TIME HE IMPLIED GURC WOULD KEEP ITS GUARD UP AND BE WATCHING AND APPRAISING SITUATION CAREFULLY.

6. IN DISCUSSING CUBAN PRESENCE ON EQUATORIAL GUINEA, SENGAT KUO FELT PERSONALLY THAT IT WAS AN EXTENSION OF SOVIET PRESENCE ON ISLAND AND VIEWED DEVELOPMENT AS SOVIET, NOT CUBAN, INSPIRED. HE HAD IMPRESSION THAT MACIAS NOT AS PLEASED WITH CUBANS AS HE MAY EARLIER HAVE EXPECTED IN VIEW THEIR
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TOUGH IDEOLOGICAL STANCE. OTHER VISITORS TO MALABO, ADMITTEDLY BIASED, HAVE SUGGESTED TO US GROWING GUINEAN DISENCHANTMENT WITH CUBANS.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE
DEPT COMMENTS ON
PARA 4 ABOVE FOR TRANSMISSION TO OWONO.
MOORE

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NNN

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